

We Claim:

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- 1 1. A method for interfacing a directory to an application in a computing system,  
2 the method comprising the steps of:  
3 providing a transformation profile for defining a predetermined format for use  
4 by the application;  
5 detecting an event in the directory;  
6 transforming the event to the predetermined format by using a transformation  
7 tool and the transformation profile; and  
8 providing the transformed event to the application;  
9 whereby the application becomes aware of the event by having the event  
10 provided to the application in a transformed state.
  - 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
2 converting the event to a generic data description before transforming the  
3 event.
  - 1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
2 providing an application shim for the application to receive the transformed  
3 event and provide the event to the application by using a native application program  
4 interface for the application.
  - 1 4. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of:  
2 updating the application shim and the transformation profile responsive to  
3 changes in the application.
  - 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the transformation profile includes a  
2 stylesheet.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the transformation profile is stored in the directory.

7. A software program for facilitating the use of a distributed directory running in a computer network, the program comprising being stored on a recordable medium and including instructions for:

receiving an event from the distributed directory into an XML generator;

converting the event into XML data;

transforming the XML data to a first predetermined format by a transformation processor, the first predetermined format being responsive to an application running in the computer network; and

transmitting the transformed data to the application.

8. The software program of claim 7 wherein the transformation processor includes an XSLT processor, the program further comprising instructions for:

providing a stylesheet to the XSLT processor, the stylesheet including formatting instructions for transforming XML data to the first predetermined format.

9. The software program of claim 8 further comprising instructions for: receiving updates to the stylesheet responsive to any changes in either the distributed directory or the application.

10. The software program of claim 7 wherein the transformed data is transmitted to the application through an application shim to provide the transformed data to the application by using a native application program interface for the application.

1 11. The software program of claim 7 further comprising instructions for:  
2 detecting the event through notification from an event handler of the  
3 distributed directory.

1 12. The software program of claim 7 further comprising instructions for:  
2 receiving a second event from the application,  
3 converting the second event into XML data;  
4 transforming the XML data to a second predetermined format by the  
5 transformation processor, the second predetermined format being responsive to the  
6 distributed directory; and  
7 transmitting the data transformed according to the second predetermined  
8 format to the distributed directory.

1 13. The software program of claim 12 wherein the transformation processor  
2 includes an XSLT processor, the program further comprising instructions for:  
3 providing a first stylesheet to the XSLT processor, the first stylesheet  
4 including formatting instructions for transforming XML data to the first  
5 predetermined format:

6 providing a second stylesheet to the XSLT processor, the second stylesheet  
7 including formatting instructions for transforming XML data to the second  
8 predetermined format.

1 14. The software program of claim 12 wherein the transformed data is transmitted  
2 from the application through an application shim.

1 15. A software program for facilitating the use of a distributed directory running  
2 in a computer network, the program comprising instructions for:

3 receiving an event from the application;  
4 transforming the event to a predetermined format by a transformation  
5 processor, the predetermined format being responsive to the distributed directory;  
6 and

7 transmitting the transformed event to the distributed directory.

1 16. The software program of claim 15 further comprising instructions for:  
2 converting the event into markup language data prior to transforming the  
3 event.

1 17. The software program of claim 15 further comprising instructions for:  
2 providing a transformation profile to the transformation processor, the  
3 transformation profile including formatting instructions for transforming the  
4 markup language data to the predetermined format.

1 18. A distributed computer system comprising:  
2 a first processor connected to a network for executing computer code;  
3 a second processor connected to the network for executing computer code;  
4 a first memory connected to the first processor;  
5 a second memory connected to the second processor;  
6 a distributed directory, a portion of which being stored in the first memory;  
7 an application, a portion of which being stored in the second memory;  
8 a transformation profile for defining a predetermined format for use by the  
9 application;  
10 software for detecting an event in the distributed directory;  
11 software for transforming the event to the predetermined format by using a  
12 generic transformation tool and the transformation profile; and  
13 software for providing the transformed event to the application;  
14 whereby the application becomes aware of the event by having the event  
15 provided to the application in a transformed state.

1 19. The system of claim 18 further comprising:  
2 software for converting the event to a generic data description before  
3 transforming the event.

1 20. The system of claim 18 further comprising:  
2 an application shim for the application to receive the transformed event and  
3 provide the event to the application by using a native application program interface  
4 for the application.

1 21. The system of claim 18 further comprising:  
2 a second transformation profile for defining a second predetermined format for  
3 use by the distributed directory;

1 software for transforming an application event to the second predetermined  
2 format by using the generic transformation tool and the second transformation  
3 profile; and

4 software for providing the transformed application event to the distributed  
5 directory;

6 whereby the distributed directory becomes aware of the application event by  
7 having the application event provided to the distributed directory in a transformed  
8 state.

1 22. The system of claim 21 wherein the generic transformation tool utilizes a  
2 markup language and the software for transforming the event and the application  
3 event utilizes a transformation processor.

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